

# Romulus News

APRIL 16, 2004 – APRIL 29, 2004

"the little paper"

VOLUME 17 NUMBER 19

## Timely Tidbits ...

### 4 Candidates Vie for 2 School Board Seats

Romulus Deputy Clerk Eva Webb reports that four candidates will appear on the ballot for the annual Romulus Community Schools Board of Education election, set for Monday, June 14.

Those filing by the April 12 deadline were:

- Betty M. Lenossi (incumbent),
- Leo L. Knasiak, Jr.,
- Thomas C. Kuderik, and
- Dennis Lubas.

Michael Woods, the other board member whose term expires this summer, did not file for reelection. He could not be reached for comment.

### Civil War Program

A special program called "Truth or Coincidence – Strange and Ironic Occurrences in the Civil War" will highlight the Romulus Historical Society's next meeting, to be held at 7 p.m. on Wednesday, April 21, in the council chambers at Romulus City Hall (11111 South Wayne Road).

Guest speaker Tom Barrett's presentation will feature a human-interest approach to a pivotal event in our history.

The program is free; the public is welcome.

### Used Book Sale

Bargain-hunting readers won't want to miss the popular Spring Used Book Sale, an annual fundraiser hosted by the Friends of the Romulus Public Library.

The four-day event will feature hardbacks for \$1 each, paperbacks for \$.50, records and videos for \$1, and children's books for \$.25. On the final day of the sale, pay just \$1.50 for an entire bag of books. Stock up on a whole summer's worth of reading for less than the cost of a new paperback!

The book sale will be held at the library (11121 South Wayne Road) on the following dates:

- Monday, April 19, through Wednesday, April 21, 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.; and
- Saturday, April 24, 12 to 5 p.m.

## Council Passes Resolution Opposing Personal Property Tax Exemptions

by Kristi Stephens

A bill currently in front of the Michigan House of Representatives drew a mixed reaction from Romulus City Council members during their April 5 meeting.

The bill, HB 4234, would make the first \$7,500 of a business's personal property exempt from taxes. Because passage of the bill could cost the City up to \$72,500 in revenue annually, assessor Julie Albert urged Council to send Lansing a resolution opposing it.

Chairman Pro Tem Debbie Romak admitted to conflicting feelings about the bill. She doesn't like to see the City lose money, but also believes that local business owners need a break.

"You know, we're all starving for jobs and small business ... and [this bill] gives the small businessman an opportunity to get through the hard times," said Romak, who pointed out that mom-and-pop establishments don't receive breaks like the property tax abatements often enjoyed by big business.

Councilman Bill Crova, however, views the personal property tax as an opportunity to collect tax money from companies at Detroit Metro Airport.

"One of the primary sources [of revenue] that we receive out of Metropolitan Airport is personal property tax," Crova explained. "All of the businesses that are there are exempt from our city taxes because of the fact that they're on county land. But personal property taxes [are] a funding source back to the City. ... If, in fact, the personal property tax was relieved, it would relieve those large corporations at the airport of the responsibility of sharing in part of our tax bill."

Councilman LeRoy Burcroff identified what he sees as an additional "conflict" related to support of HR 4234. He reminded his colleagues that the City just participated in a training program, funded by a grant from the Michigan Department of Treasury, to improve its capture of personal property taxes from local businesses.

Crova's resolution to oppose the bill, seconded by Burcroff, was passed with support from Councilmen Mike Prybyla and Bill Wadsworth. Romak opposed the resolution, while Councilman Charles Miller abstained from the vote. Council chairman Randy Gear was again excused for military duty.



Councilman Bill Crova



Councilwoman Debbie Romak

### City Releases Master Plan Draft

At long last, the City of Romulus has released a draft of its master plan for the public's perusal. Council's unanimous vote to make the draft available will give interested parties plenty of time to familiarize themselves with the document and prepare their comments for the requisite public meeting to be held this summer.

Councilman Crova, a member of the steering committee that has been discussing the master plan since November 2002, said that the draft document reflects a lot of hard work from people committed to updating the current plan, which has been in effect since the early 1980s.

Councilman Burcroff, another of the steering committee members, urged residents to examine the draft and take part in the decision-making process.

"It's not a perfect document; I don't think there ever would be a perfect document," he acknowledged. "... If you see something in it that you *don't* like, we *do* want [your] comments."

### Public Input Sought on Request for Tax Abatement

The City of Romulus will hear comments regarding Lear Corporation's request for an "industrial facilities exemption certificate" during a public hearing to be held at Romulus City Hall (11111 South Wayne Road) on Monday, May 10, at 6:30 p.m.

The meeting date was announced during the Council's regular meeting of Monday, April 12.

Lear is asking the City to grant a 12-year abatement on \$5,589,400 worth of new equipment that would be used to produce seats for Daimler-Chrysler's Dodge Dakota and Ram trucks.

The company maintains that approval of the abatement will result in the retention of 340 current jobs as well as the addition of 150 new jobs within the next two years.

### Rezoning Proposal Denied

During its April 12 meeting, the Romulus City Council considered and denied RKA Petroleum's request to rezone 1.59 acres of property, located at the northwest corner of Wick and Middlebelt roads, to allow the construction of a gasoline service station with an accompanying convenience store.

The decision was made in accordance with the unanimous recommendation of the Planning Commission, which expressed concerns regarding traffic congestion and inconsistencies with the master plan, among other matters.

Martin Parker, senior manager of traffic engineering for Wade Trim, spoke on behalf of the applicant, reporting the conclusions of his own traffic impact analysis. Parker acknowledged that traffic at the intersection is already congested, but argued that adding the new development would not significantly increase the load. He stated his belief that most customers would come from "pass-by traffic" – traffic already traveling the roads to other primary destinations – so additional impact would be minimal.

continued on page 2



### Rezoning Request for Gas Station Denied

continued from page 1

Councilman Burcroff, who eventually seconded Councilman Crova's motion to deny the rezoning request, remained skeptical.

"The number I heard from (I believe it was) Wayne County is that that's either the number-one or number-two highest volume intersection in Wayne County," Burcroff noted. "It's definitely a major problem area for us."

Burcroff said he found it difficult to see how the ingress and egress of numerous vehicles – as many as 200 per hour, according to Parker's estimate – could fail to slow traffic.

"I'm not sure that I really buy how that's not going to impact the flow."

Council's resolution to deny RKA Petroleum's request for rezoning passed by a 5-0 vote. (Councilmen Gear and Romak were excused from the meeting.)

### City Rezones Property

Additional actions taken during the Council's April 12 meeting included the rezoning of approximately 54 acres of property bounded by Smith Road to the north, Middlebelt to the east, I-94 to the south, and Hudson to the west.

The City-initiated request for a change from the current BT (business transitional) zoning to RC (regional center) was explained by city planner Cynthia Lyon, AICP.

"When the zoning ordinance was amended ... in June of 2001, there was an elimination of the BT (business transitional) district from the zoning ordinance," Lyon said. "However, it was not eliminated from all the parcels that were zoned BT on the zoning map."

"What we're finding is that, with inquiries, we have difficulty telling a developer or property owner what they can or can't do with their property when there are no regulations in the zoning ordinances," she added.

Lyon estimated that about 65% of the property is currently owned by Wayne County. Other owners include the estate of Wendell Flynn, the City of Romulus, and various individuals.

Councilman Burcroff's motion to rezone the property, seconded by Councilman Crova, received unanimous approval. □

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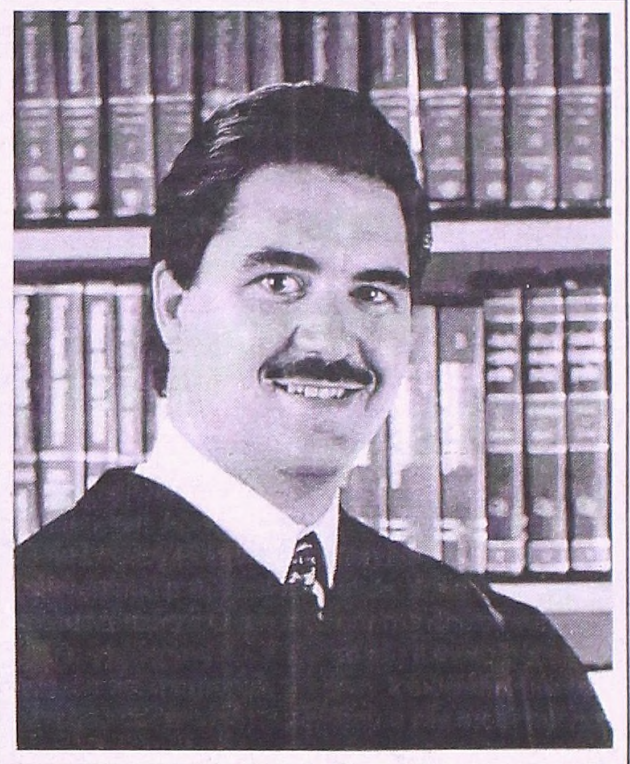
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## Auto Supply Opens Second Site

by Rikki Strobos

In the past, people looking for auto parts were often forced to make a difficult choice: patronize big chain stores that have a large product selection but impersonal service, or shop at neighborhood stores where the staff is friendly and familiar, but the selection is less varied.

That all changed on March 18, 2004, when Doug O'Leary officially opened his second Romulus Auto Supply location with a gala ribbon-cutting attended by Mayor Alan R. Lambert and numerous other well-wishers. The local entrepreneur's new store, located at 6800 Middlebelt, fronts an enormous warehouse owned by auto parts giant Auto-Wares, and combines the best of small-town service with big-time selection.

For years, O'Leary has been a well-known figure in the community. His association with the original Romulus Auto Supply – located on Goddard Road in the city's downtown area – began in 1982, when he went to work for then-owner Ron Brugger. With his gregarious nature and rapidly increasing knowledge of the industry, O'Leary played a big part in increasing the store's loyal customer base. Many of those same customers were still patronizing the store when he assumed its ownership in 1999.

For the next several years, O'Leary continued to operate his store, slowly but steadily building his clientele. Then an exciting opportunity took his business to a whole new level.

"This is the perfect setup," O'Leary said. "Working with Auto-Wares gives me quick access to an enormous inventory from 10 warehouses throughout the state. Even special-order parts are available the next day.

"Everything is geared toward superior customer service," the 40-year-old Canton resident continued. "We have a computerized catalog of parts, so finding the right part in our well-organized warehouse system is a snap. And having two locations within the City means that we can make deliveries faster than ever before."

O'Leary also points with pride to his well-trained staff's extensive auto parts experience. Among the most knowledgeable are two of the original store's employees.

"James Krupar and Stephen Gaines each have 30 years of experience in the auto parts business," O'Leary explained.

Other staff members include Middlebelt store manager Rick Wayne as well as Romulus residents William "Rocky" Montoya and Andrew McNeil.

O'Leary considers his location to be another big advantage.

"We have two stores located in the very heart of an industrial area with growing residential neighborhoods and a rapidly expanding transportation industry. We're ideally situated to serve this built-in customer base."

Besides parts sales, the store performs a variety of services like hydraulic hose assembly, off-car strut assembly, and battery/alternator/starter testing.

O'Leary expressed his sincere gratitude to Brugger, his former mentor; Auto-Wares owner Fred Bunting for his confidence and support; and Auto-Wares representatives Vince Candella and Dick Zechmeister for their longtime efforts on his behalf. He also had words of thanks for both his customers and his staff members for their continued loyalty.

For more information about Romulus Auto Supply, contact the Goddard store (734-941-1727) or the Middlebelt store (734-722-3980). □

## Robbery Suspects Still Sought



The male suspect, between 35 and 40 years of age, is about 5'9", weighs approximately 160 lbs., and is clean shaven.



The female suspect, believed to be around 30 years old, is about 5'6" and weighs approximately 150 lbs.

The Romulus Police Department is still looking for leads in an armed robbery/home invasion that took place in the 9000 block of Chamberlain on Wednesday, March 31.

According to Detective Lieutenant John Leacher, a black male and a black female forced their way into the residence at about 7:30 p.m. The female homeowner and her three children – ages 2, 7, and 11 – were held at gunpoint by the female suspect while the male suspect stole several long guns from the home. Included among the stolen weapons were a number of assault rifles and shotguns. Several pieces of jewelry were also taken.

The two suspects are described as follows.

- The black male, probably between 35 and 40 years of age, is approximately 5'9", weighs about 160 pounds, and is clean shaven. He was last seen wearing a black, hooded sweatshirt and black pants.

- The black female, about 30 years of age, is around 5'6" tall and weighs approximately 150 pounds. She was last seen wearing a black sweatshirt, black baseball cap, and black sweatpants with a white stripe.

A Michigan State Police sketch artist has created composite drawings of both suspects (see above).

Anyone with information regarding the suspect couple and/or the robbery incident is asked to contact Detective Sergeant Dennis Felice at the Romulus Police Department: 734-941-8400. □

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Romulus Mayor Alan R. Lambert (right) congratulates Romulus Auto Supply owner Doug O'Leary just before the ribbon-cutting ceremony for his new store's grand opening.



# Holiday Celebrations

## Annual March, Egg Hunt Celebrate Good Friday, Easter Sunday Holidays



Community United Methodist Church's Reverend William Kren was one of several pastors who bore a symbolic cross in the Good Friday march from Historic Park to Five Points in Romulus.



Romulus Mayor Alan R. Lambert (right) congratulated Reverend Arthur Willis of the Romulus Ministerial Association for his group's successful organization of the annual event.



More than 200 children and their families enjoyed the Romulus Recreation Department's annual Easter Egg Hunt, held at Elmer Johnson Park on Saturday, April 10.

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## Wick Elementary School Students Present *Romeo and Juliet*

Wick Elementary fifth-graders from Tom Gibb-Randall's class recently presented an outstanding performance of *Romeo and Juliet*.

"This was a major effort that included beautiful scenery, elegant wardrobe design, and a significant amount of rehearsal time," said Dick Kruse, PR director for the school district.

Ricky Evanski and Talen Brown shared the role of Romeo, while Diamond Chandler and Natalia Brown were Juliet. Additional cast members included Sierra Smith as Antonia, Marcus Montgomery as Lord Montague, Halarna Hampton as Lady Montague, Brandon Brown and Nick Tripp as Lord Capulet, Jaiana Powers and Malika Young as Lady Capulet, Michael Householder and Bryan Moore as Mercutio, Jamal Kent as Benvolio, Anthony James as Tybalt, Lauren Johnson as Friar Lawrence, Matarius Buford and Jailen Claypool as the Servant, and Chelsea Roper, Monae Riley, and Brianna Boyd as the Nurse.

Chorus members were Robert Ames, Benjamin Camilleri, Jasmine Knowles, Erica Ross, Demetrius Anderson, Dylan Dotson, Raven Parnell, Bre'Ana West, and Kaela Williams. □



Performers in *Romeo and Juliet* included: (from left) front – Michael Householder, Ben Camilleri, Terry Jones, Bryan Moore, Talen Brown, and Malika Young; second row – Jasmine Knowles, Chelsea Roper, Raven Parnell, Monae Riley, Natalia Brown, Brianna Boyd, Sierra Smith, and Harlana Hampton; third row – Marcus Montgomery, Diamond Chandler, Dylan Dotson, Jamal Kent, Jaiana Powers, Jalen Claypool, Lauren Johnson, and Ricky Evanski; back – Tom Gibb-Randall (teacher), Brandon Brown, Bre'Ana West, and Erica Ross.

## Boys & Girls Club Honors Ventola as Key Person of the Year

The Romulus Boys & Girls Club honored Bill Ventola of Central Distributors as its Key Person of the Year during a recent Awards Night program held at Wick Elementary School. Ventola, a member of the club's advisory council, organized its first golf outing and helped raise nearly \$5,000 for the organization.

Club director Frank Rigger welcomed the Awards Night audience to the ceremony.

"The Romulus Boys & Girls Club sites at Merriman and Wick elementary schools continue to serve over 600 children with high-quality child-care until 8:30 p.m. daily," he told his listeners. Rigger went on to recognize Tom Plum from the Romulus Community Schools and lauded his efforts to provide tutoring programs for students during after-school hours.

Later, Rigger honored his staff and presented student leadership awards to 32 club members from the Merriman and Wick sites.

### Merriman Honorees

Natasia Campbell, Jay Francois, Tamara Garrison, Tierra Garrison, Tonio Garrison, Janette Gula, Shyla Harbin, Marcus Harris, Olivia Madison, Maurice Murphy, Tara Redford, Julius Rea, Sierra Straughter, Kayla Walton, Curtis Washington, and Kayla Watkins.

### Wick Honorees

Neko Barker, Renesha Chandler, Darnelle Fields, Sydne Higginbotham, Julian Johnson, Lyric Keeton, Gary



(Front, from left) Bill Ventola, named Key Person of the Year by the Romulus Boys & Girls Club, and Winifred Seals, Grandparent Volunteer of the Year, were joined by Tom Plum, Romulus Community Schools tutoring coordinator; Debbie Juriga, Wick Elementary School principal; John Juriga, club founder; (back, from left) Judge David Parrott, 34th District Court; Tom Ellis, community liaison officer for the Romulus Police Department; the Reverend Arthur Willis, Pentecostal Missionary Baptist Church; and Scott Rogers, Central Distributors representative, for a ceremony held in their honor.

Logerstedt, Macee Logerstedt, William McGinnis, Tasheema Jones-Murray, Darius Osborne, NaKendra Pinkston, NaKeya Pinkston, Carmen Plank, LeAnne Plank, and Willie Sludge.

Reverend Arthur Willis of the Pentecostal Missionary Baptist Church, who also attended the awards program, asked parents in the audience to help form a Boys & Girls Club Parents Association.

Willis pointed out the need for volunteers to help out at the club's special events, as well as the importance of parent involvement in their children's activities. □



# RHS Drama Club Members Give Dreamy Performance



Alicia Brady portrayed Puck, who managed to mix things up for the play's young lovers.



Kevin Stobbe brought tears of laughter to audience members' eyes with his portrayal of Bottom.

Congratulations to the Romulus High School Drama Club on its successful first production, Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, which was performed in the RHS auditorium the weekend of April 2-4. Club sponsor Monica Lewis says she is still receiving letters of congratulation and praise for her students' efforts.

An opening night afterglow allowed audience members to chat with cast members and enjoy refreshments provided by generous sponsors.

The Drama Club hopes that the spectacular success of its first production will provide the impetus for a fully supported performing arts production every year. □



Darnell Anderson and Jennifer Lammers portrayed Lysander and Hermia in the Romulus High School Drama Club's production of Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*.

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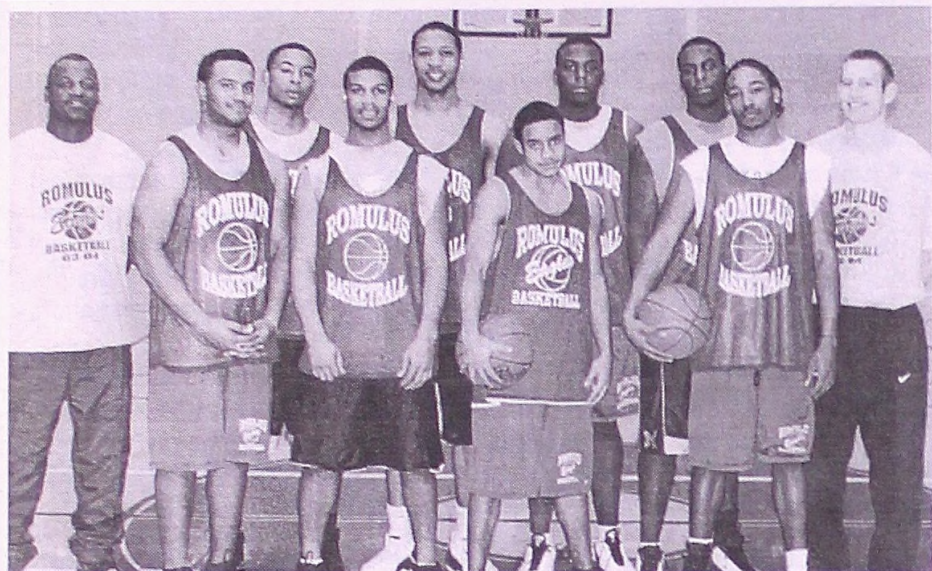
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# Around the District



Senior power and leadership had a big influence on the RHS basketball team: (from left) front – assistant coach Steve Glenn, Jamar Bird, Kyle Wasson, Josh Brown, A.J. Hall, and head coach Nate Oats; back – Demarvelous Carter, Ron Coleman, Marvin Wheeler, and Mark Wheeler.



RHS cheerleaders giving their all at the district basketball tournament included: (from left) front – Megan Whalen, Krystle McKay, Danielle Butler, Novella Haugabook, and Britney Garrison; back – Lucretia Johnson, Jessica Shelton, Ebony Coleman, and Brytni White.



(From left) Romulus High School students – including (front) Andrew Lovenduski, Eric Eberle, and Justin White, as well as (back) Lance Vaughn, Billie Jean Moomaw, and Tom Watt – proudly show off their artwork for special tray holders used in the school lunchroom. Assistant principal Doug Hoffman complimented the students on their work.



(From left) Sharman Spieser of the Romulus/Van Buren Adult Education program welcomed State Senator Raymond Basham and his aide, Marcy Novack, during their visit to discuss issues such as the Environmental Disposal Systems deepwell and proposed casino and racetrack projects with students like Sarah Mattson.

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## Focusing on Anti-bullying Behaviors

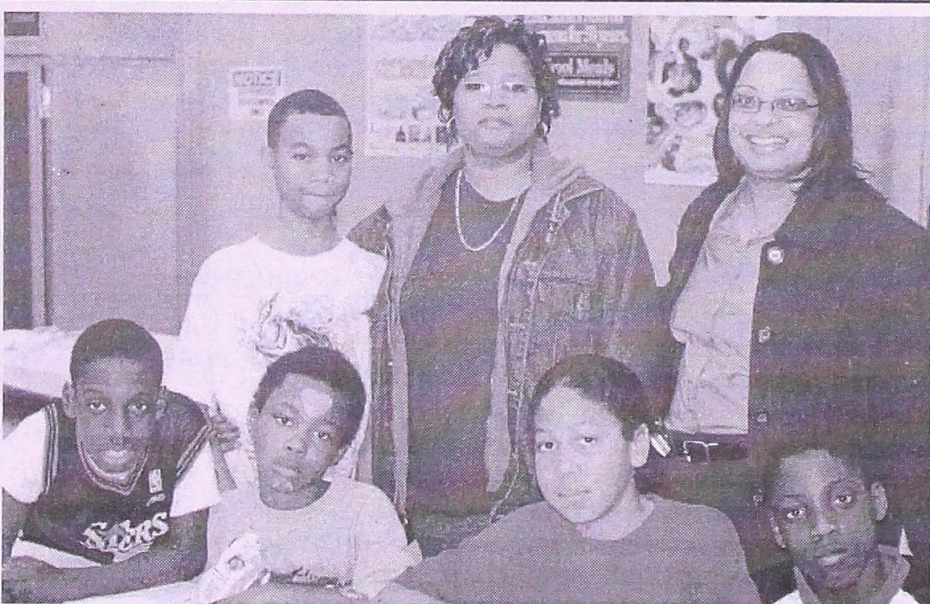


Romulus Board of Education members recently enjoyed skits on anti-bullying behaviors presented by a number of Barth Elementary School students and staff members, including: (from left) front – Jeane Elam and Sierra Nathaniel; back – Theresa Blizman (intervention room specialist), Daijah Street, Susan Mitchell (social worker), Raymond Halimon, John Nathaniel, Sheila Stasak (physical education teacher), and Cody Argo.

## Halecreek Hosts Fun Night



Among those taking part in Halecreek's recent Family Fun Night were (from left) grandmother Gloria Swanson, granddaughter Alexis Swanson, and mother Kim Cantwell.



Romulus Board of Education trustee Niema White (back, right) attended the program, where she enjoyed visiting students and parents, including: (from left) front – Josef McKinney, Dimitrius Clark, James Williams, and Jeffrey McKinney; back – Trevon Goforth and Bonita Richardson.

## Community Calendar

- **Magic Show Celebrates National Library Week** – In celebration of National Library Week, the Romulus Public Library (located at 11121 South Wayne Road) has planned a special appearance by magician Jason Hudy on Monday, April 19, from 6 to 6:45 p.m. Other program highlights will include a reading of Rhonda Gowler Greene's *Barnyard Song* by State Representative Hoon-Yung Hopgood. For more information, please call the library (734-942-7589).
- **Chamber Luncheon** – J.R. Atiyeh, CFP from ChiroCare, will be the guest speaker at the Greater Romulus Chamber of Commerce's next business luncheon, to be held at noon on Tuesday, April 20, at the Double Tree Hotel (31500 Wick Road, Romulus). Tickets (\$13 for members; \$15 for nonmembers) must be purchased by 3 p.m. on Friday, April 16. For more information, call the Chamber office: 734-326-4290.
- **"Great Parents, Great Start" Reading Program** – The Romulus Public Library is planning a free "Great Parents, Great Start" story-time program for children (up to five years of age) and their parents/guardians. Parents may choose between evening sessions (7 p.m. Tuesdays from April 20 through May 25) and morning sessions (10:30 a.m. Thursdays from April 22 through May 27). Preregistration is required. Call 734-942-7589.
- **Freedom Weekend III** – The Freedom Institute is inviting the public to attend Freedom Weekend III – a weekend of edutainment! – from Thursday, April 22, through Saturday, April 24. The event, to be held at the Cobo Conference Center in downtown Detroit, will feature a host of programs, including a public policy luncheon (Thursday at 12:30 p.m.); a gospel concert (Thursday at 8 p.m.); expos and exhibits on jobs, homeownership, and health empowerment (Friday and Saturday from 9 a.m. to 6 p.m.); a power economics symposium (Friday at 10 a.m.); a race-and-politics summit (Friday at 10 a.m.); personal finance seminars (Saturday at 10 a.m.), an African-American art fair (Saturday from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.); an African-American film festival (Saturday at 11 a.m.), and a national town-hall meeting, moderated by NAACP Image Award-winner Greg Mathis (Saturday at 5 p.m.). Senior citizens programs will be offered on Thursday; youth programs on Saturday. Cost for the entire conference (meals included) is \$140 per person. Thursday-only packages are \$85; Friday-only are \$95. For more information, call 313-533-5053, or visit [freedominstitute-esp.org](http://freedominstitute-esp.org).
- **Special Events at St. Paul Church** – St. Paul Evangelical Lutheran Church is inviting the public to attend its **Salad Luncheon** on Friday, April 23, from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. (donation: \$6), and its **Vendor Sale** (featuring Avon, Party Lite, Pampered Chef & Toys, etc.) on Saturday, April 24, from 12 to 4 p.m. The church is located at the corner of Craig and Ellis streets in New Boston. For more information, call 734-753-9048.
- **Permits Now Available for Citywide Rummage Sale** – Are you planning to take part in Romulus's enormously popular Citywide Rummage Sale? Free permits for the annual event – set for Thursday, May 20, through Sunday, May 23 – are now available at the Romulus Recreation Department, located at 36515 Bibbins in downtown Romulus. Although permits will be available until the event begins, residents must register by Friday, April 30, to be included in flyers and newspaper advertisements promoting sale locations. For more information, please call 734-942-6852.
- **Free Dumping** – Romulus residents (proper ID required) are invited to take advantage of the City's annual free dumping program, which will begin on Saturday, May 15, then continue from Monday, May 17, through Saturday, May 22. All items must be taken to the DPW (12600 Wayne Road, between Eureka and Goddard) for disposal. Basic rules include (but are not limited to) the following: no more than three bulky items per household; all refrigeration units must have a freon-removal certification sticker; no more than two loads may be dumped per day per household; construction debris is limited to one pickup truckload per household; no small children will be allowed in the disposal area. For more information, call 734-942-7579.
- **Clean Sweep Needs You!** – At 9 a.m. on Saturday, May 22, volunteers from all over Romulus will meet at City Hall (11111 South Wayne Road) for refreshments, then organize into groups for the cleanup of the downtown area and the city's major entry points. Your help is needed! Volunteer as an individual, family, or organization. All ages are welcome. For more information, contact Mayor Alan R. Lambert's office: 734-942-7571.

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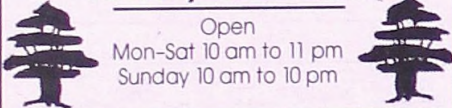
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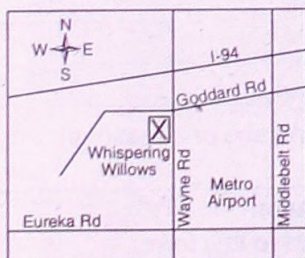
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# Sassy Seniors

By Mary E. Clark

Special thanks to Linda Norman, senior citizens program coordinator for the City of Romulus Department of Parks and Recreation, for contributing information to this issue's "Sassy Seniors" column. (For more information about events at the Romulus Senior Center, located at 36515 Bibbins in the downtown area, please call 734-955-4120.)

### Mini Health Fair

Colleen Cooper of Oakwood Healthcare System will be at the Romulus Senior Center on Friday, April 30, from 9 a.m. to 12 p.m. to offer local seniors a free stroke assessment as well as screenings for high blood pressure and diabetes. Other tests available for a minimum fee will be a cholesterol check (\$4) and osteoporosis screening (\$5). For more information, or to make a reservation, contact the Center.

### Ice-cream Social

Wayne County Commissioner Susan Hubbard will host an Ice-cream Social at the Romulus Senior Center on Monday, May 24. The free event will offer seniors a sweet opportunity to discuss county government topics such as roads, Metro Airport, prescription drug programs, and more.

Preregistration is required.

### Movie Day

The Romulus Senior Center will be showing the animated comedy, *Shrek*, at 1 p.m. on Friday, April 23. To reserve your seat, contact the Center.

### Then and Now!

The Romulus Senior Center urges you to bring a current and past picture of yourself to enter its "Then and Now" contest, to be held during the Mother's Day Tea on Friday, May 21. Photos - which will be scanned and returned the same day - are needed as soon as possible.

For more information about the contest, contact the Center.

### Club One Welcomes You!

Club One, a senior citizens' group that meets at the Romulus Senior Center each Tuesday at 11 a.m., will hold meetings on the following dates this month:

- April 20 (outing TBA); and
- April 27 (meeting, bingo, and bag lunch).

As always, new faces are welcome.

### Special Trips

Seniors interested in more information about these or other special trips that have been planned by the Romulus Senior Center should call Linda Norman, senior program coordinator.

- **Bay Mills Casino** (April 28-29; \$105);
- **Las Vegas/Bally's Casino Resort** (May 3-7; \$599);
- **Windsor Racetrack Slots** (May 12; \$5);
- **Niagara Fallsview Casino** (May 17-18; \$110);
- **Alaska Cruise** (May 29-June 5, \$1899);
- **Shipshewana** (June 1; \$58);
- **Down-home Country Mystery** (August 11-14; \$490); and
- **National Parks of the Golden West** (August 14-28; \$1348).

Note: Deposits - due at the time of sign-up - reserve your seat. For day trips, full payment is due at least two weeks before departure. For overnight trips, full payment is due a minimum of 30 days before departure.

### Identity Theft & Traffic Safety

Detective Sergeant Jeff Lazarski and Officer Mike Grant will be at the Romulus Senior Center at 10 a.m. on Friday, April 23, to discuss the topical issues of identity theft and traffic safety as they relate to senior citizens. Light refreshments will be served.

To help the Center prepare for the event, please preregister if you plan to attend.

### Ask the City Attorney

City attorney Raymond Guzall will be at the Senior Center on Monday, April 26, to answer questions about the City of Romulus.

Those who plan to attend should submit possible questions well ahead of the event to give Guzall time to perform any necessary research.

### Regular Programs

Besides the many special activities offered at the Romulus Senior Center, a number of regularly scheduled free or low-cost programs are also open to local senior citizens.

They include:

- ceramics (Mondays, 12:30 p.m.),
- Club One (Tuesdays, 11 a.m.),
- bunco (Tuesdays, 1 p.m.),
- bingo (Wednesdays, 1 p.m.),
- "fun night" (Wednesdays, 5 p.m.),
- pinochle (Thursdays, 12:30 p.m.),
- "game day" (Thursdays, 1 to 3 p.m.), and
- quilting (Thursdays, 7 p.m.).

### Hot Lunches

Just a reminder that the Romulus Senior Center serves a hot lunch at 11:30 a.m. each weekday for only \$1.75. Call at least 24 hours in advance to make your reservation. □

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# Obituaries

## Earl G. Kadau

Earl G. Kadau of Romulus, Michigan, passed away on Wednesday, March 31, 2004, at the age of 87.

The U.S. Army veteran was born in Detroit, Michigan, on December 4, 1916.

Earl is survived by his wife of 58 years, Lois M. (Korndorfer) Kadau; a daughter, Mrs. David (Marlene) Svacha (Romulus); a son, Roger E. (Paula) Kadau (Romulus); 5 grandchildren; and 3 great-grandchildren. Preceding him in passing were his parents, Charles A.

and Martha I. (Guttowski) Kadau; 2 brothers, August (1989) and Charles (1970); and 4 sisters, Maybell, Julianna (1946), Vera (1973), and Helena (1996).

A funeral service was held on Saturday, April 3, at Crane Funeral Home (Romulus), with Reverend William Kren (Community United Methodist Church, Romulus) officiating. Interment was at Michigan Memorial Park (Flat Rock).

Memorial tributes may be made to Community United Methodist Church.

## Fred A. Lorenz, Sr.

Fred A. Lorenz, Sr., of Romulus, Michigan, passed away on Saturday, April 3, 2004, at the age of 76.

The native of Kenosha, Wisconsin, was born on August 30, 1927.

An entrepreneur, Fred owned Saw & Specialty Corporation (Romulus) for 30 years. The U.S. Army veteran was a Knights of Columbus member. His family was an important part of his life.

Fred is survived by his 4 children, Paulette (Ray) Dugan, Fred (Becky) Lorenz, Jr., Kathy (Edward) Tobin, and Odette (Shawn) Ferguson (all of Romulus); 4 siblings, Thea Clasen (Ypsilanti, MI), William Lorenz (Belleville, MI), Mary Lou Lemanski (Petoskey, MI), and JoAnn (Robert) Lange (Maybee, MI); 7 grandchildren, Jennifer (Marc) Wolney, Fred A. Lorenz III, Mary Kathryn (Ken)

Webster, Sarah Lorenz, Shannon Dugan, Allyson Lorenz, and Andrew Ferguson; and a great-granddaughter, Kathryn Wolney. Among those predeceasing him were his parents, Theodore and Karoline (Krohn) Formella; his wife, Kathryn (Madden) Lorenz, who passed away on April 25, 1999; 2 brothers, Richard and Theodore Formella; and a grandson, Matthew Ferguson.

A funeral service was held on Tuesday, April 6, at St. Stephen Catholic Church (New Boston, MI), with Father Alexander J. Wyrwal officiating. Burial was at Romulus Memorial Cemetery. Arrangements were entrusted to Crane Funeral Home (Romulus).

Memorial contributions may be made to the American Diabetes Association or the American Cancer Society.

## Holland Skidgell

Holland Skidgell of Sumpter Township, Michigan, passed away on Friday, April 2, 2004, at the age of 92.

The native of Stockholm, Maine, was born on February 24, 1912.

Surviving Holland are his son, Russell H. Skidgell (Belleville, MI); 2 brothers, Alfred and Thomas; 2 sisters, Betty and Helen; 7 grandchildren; 21 great-grandchildren; and 3 great-great-

grandchildren. His wife, Evelyn M. Skidgell, preceded him in passing.

A funeral service was held on Sunday, April 4, at Crane Funeral Home (Romulus, MI), with Pastor Joel A. Dunning (Apostolic Faith Church, Ypsilanti, MI) officiating. Interment was at St. Francis Cemetery (Waterville, ME).

Memorial tributes may be made to any charitable organization.

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 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Siblings \_\_\_\_\_

Maternal Grandparents \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
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 Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions):  
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Attach any additional information concerning the birth to this form.

### ENGAGEMENT/WEDDING ANNOUNCEMENT FORM

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 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
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 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
 Bridesmaids \_\_\_\_\_  
 Groomsmen \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Engagement \_\_\_\_\_  
 Date of Wedding \_\_\_\_\_  
 Place \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
 Reception \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name and phone number of person to contact (in case of questions):  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Attach any additional information  
concerning the wedding or engagement to this form.



# Obituaries

## Franzi Kruse

Franzi Kruse of Willis, Michigan (formerly of Consaul Road, Albany, New York) died peacefully on Tuesday, April 6, 2004 at St. Joseph Hospital in Ann Arbor, Michigan, at the age of 95.

The daughter of the late Joseph and Rosa (Hefale) Amberger was born in Ketterschwang, Germany on Friday, October 23, 1908.

Franzi moved to the United States in 1930. For many years, she was a communicant of St. Clare's Church in Colonie, New York. Franzi will be remembered for the vegetables, gladioli, and apples that she and her husband sold at their roadside stand on Consaul Road. She was a member of the Schenectady Turnverein as well as the group's ladies auxiliary.

Franzi moved from Albany to live with her daughter in Connecticut in 1998. In 2001, she moved to Michigan to live with her son.

Among those surviving Franzi are her son, Richard A. Kruse (Willis);

her daughter, Elaine K. Banks (New London); a brother, Andreas Amberger, a retired missionary (Germany); a sister, Rosa Mayr (Germany); 2 grandchildren, Daniel J. Banks (Tampa, FL) and Maria E. Banks (New York City, NY); and 3 great-grandchildren, Kevin, Kyle, and Kaylee Banks (Tampa). Her husband, August Kruse, died in 1992.

Funeral services were held at 9:15 a.m. on Tuesday, April 13, at Griswold Funeral Home (Schenectady, NY), and at 10 a.m. at St. Clare's Church (Colonie), where the Liturgy of Christian Burial was celebrated. The family received visitors at the funeral home on Monday, April 12, from 6 to 8 p.m. The Legacy Candle Ceremony was offered at 8 p.m.

Interment was at Memory's Garden Cemetery (Albany).

Should friends desire, memorial contributions may be made to St. Clare's Church Memorial Fund, 1947 Central Avenue, Albany, NY 12205.

## Remembering Franzi

*a tribute from her son, Richard Kruse*

In 2001, at the age of 92, my mother came to live with me. I was not aware at the time how much my mother's life would change my own.

My home is on a private lake, and this was a constant source of joy for my mother. Our living room has a large picture window that looks out onto the lake. My mother would look forward to the seasons changing with a childlike wonder. She especially liked spring, when the flowers bloomed and the goslings and ducklings had their first swim after winter. In spite of her age, she was an avid gardener, pulling weeds and clipping blooms to decorate our house. She walked out onto the dock to feed the fish and to watch the ducks and geese glide along the water. She commented often on the beauty around her, and she made it more beautiful by being there.

Inside the house, my mother became my mom all over again. Despite the fact that we have weekly house care, she insisted on cleaning up, including laundry and making the beds. No matter how many times she was asked to stop doing this, she refused. These jobs made her happy, and even her walker was not enough of a barrier to keep her from taking care of her home and taking care of me.

My mother was an accomplished pen pal. She regularly wrote to her brother in Germany, and sent money to her church and to her Christian Children's Fund sponsored child. Everyone who wrote to her got a letter in return. Christmas cards were a big deal and were sent each year. Our shelves would be crowded with the many cards her friends would send in return.

During her time in Michigan, she created a full life that included the love



Franzi Kruse

and support of many people she was proud to have as friends. Those who had not met my mother before she was into her nineties were now throwing her birthday parties, visiting her at home, and inviting her into their lives. My mother loved to be with people, so having others in her life meant a great deal to her. We were both invited to holiday functions at the homes of the Fortunes and the Baleses, two families who contributed a great deal to my mother's happiness here. Even while in the nursing home, she earned the friendship of other patients, and was appreciated by doctors and staff. There is no place in existence where my mother spent time that she didn't make lasting friendships. I am deeply grateful to every person who made her life so full.

My mother loved children, and was fortunate to be in their company quite often. Every year, with the help of Barbara Snyder, we hosted an Easter egg hunt, which drew about 30 children. Barbara and her two daughters saw my mother once a week. Being able to hold and feed the youngest girl, Tori, was one of my mother's favorite pastimes. There are many other children who helped to complete what was an incredibly content life.

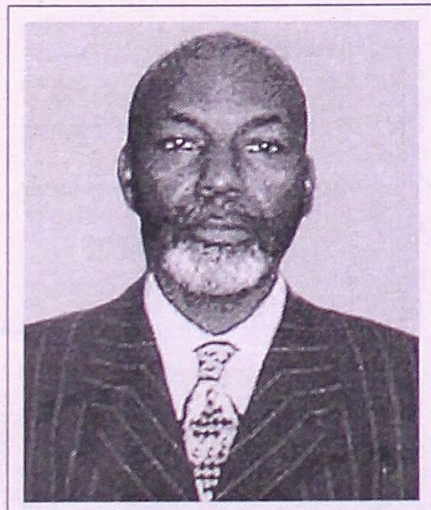
I am proud and thankful to have had the opportunity to make my mother's last years so happy. She made every life she touched richer, especially mine.

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- Ladies Ministry - 1st Friday: 7:00 pm
- Youth Ministry - 2nd Saturday: 2:00 pm

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